

**Alan Dershowitz:** The First Amendment is both a law and a principle; the law applies only to public universities and to public officials. Congress shall make no law abridging the freedom of speech or of the press. So that's a legal doctrine. But America is based on the principles of the First Amendment that transcend its limitations as a law. And all universities--private, public, religious--should be devoted to full exchange of ideas, full right of dissent, freedom of religion and equality. And we're seeing many universities giving in to the calls of the extreme left, sometimes extreme right demanding constraints on basic freedoms. Free speech for me but not for thee, safe spaces for me but not for thee, trigger warnings for me but not for thee. There is a growing intolerance and we are now seeing some people being booed on campus because they support freedom of speech. One of the leaders of FIRE which is a great organization that promotes freedom on campuses was booed at Yale because he talked about freedom of speech. And we hear student leaders from the hard-left saying 'First Amendment, that's not important to us; we want results, we want everybody to accept our doctrines. The First Amendment be damned, freedom of speech be damned, we don't want to hear speech that offends us or disagrees with our principles. What's the use of having lies promoted on campus.' Of course, *their* 'lies' are the truths of many other people.

**Alan Dershowitz:** Today on university campuses people of the hard-left, certain minorities can say anything they please and can do anything they please and the administrators are terrorized by them because they'll take over the university they'll have sit-ins, they'll engage in violence, they'll shout down professors. But students who represent different point of view, students who are Zionists whether Jewish or Christian Zionists are prevented from speaking on many campuses. They are shouted down by Students for Justice for Palestine and other groups who have as a policy not allowing speech on campus. At McGill University the student newspaper has said it will refuse to run any articles or report on, any positively report on any Zionist worldview because they feel that's oppressive. So they're going to deny their students the right to read in a newspaper, a different perspective on Israel and the Middle East than the perspective that they themselves espouse. That's a form of fascism. Controlling the means of expression, controlling the newspapers and saying we will not allow newspapers to be used to express contrary views is very, very dangerous to Western values, very dangerous to democracy and should never be tolerated on a campus.

**Alan Dershowitz:** If there's a student newspaper that refuses to express pro-Israel views there should be another newspaper that puts it out of business by competing with it in the marketplace of ideas. Advertisers should refuse to advertise in neo-fascist newspapers of that kind. And if there's public funding of any such newspapers the public funders must demand that the newspaper be open to all ideas not just to ideas of the hard left. We don't want student newspapers to turn into Pravda and there is a real risk today that on certain universities student newspapers only permit one point of view in a kind of Stalinist Pravda way. And that has to be challenged in the marketplace of ideas.

**Alan Dershowitz:** What's happening on American universities is only a microcosm of what's happening in Europe. In Europe, it's much worse: in England, in France, in Scandinavian countries, intolerance of ideas that are not of the hard Left is growing even more. In France, of course, we are seeing the growth of extremes on both parts; we are seeing Marine Le Pen in her nationalist party increasing strength, we are seeing the left increasing its strength, the hard-left on university campuses. I see a movement throughout Europe that reminds me of the movements

in the 1920s and 1930s, everything is now between the hard-left and the hard-right, the vibrant center is disappearing and weakening.

**Alan Dershowitz:** Look when I was a student there were attempts to repress free speech but it came from the right; it was called McCarthyism. I went to college during the McCarthy period and I understand how terrible it can be when the right tries to suppress free speech. But now much of the suppression of free speech is coming from the left and from people with whom we have some sympathy but we cannot allow that sympathy to violate the Western values that are essential to the perpetuation of democracy.